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TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,SP 02,SS 20,
GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,SAH 03,AID 30,IO 21,SAL 01,INR 07,
P 04,NIC 01,RSR 01,/124 W

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Dran Izzberg DATE 1/20/82
XDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

P R 241100Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9520
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4721
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 1227
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2890

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9418

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS: THE WINNERS IN TAY NINH

REF: SAIGON 6714: SAIGON 8011

1. REFTELS REPORT ON THE TWENTY-FIVE CANDIDATES FOR TAY NINH'S THREE LOWER HOUSE SEATS AND DISCUSS DOMINANT

PAGE 2 RUMJI 9418 C O N F I D E N T I A L
BUT AMBIGUOUS POSITION OF CAO DAI CHURCH IN PROVINCIAL POLITICS. WINNERS, ALL BELIEVED TO BE CAO DAI, ARE:
A. NGUYEN VAN PHUONG, 43, 32,732 VOTES. PHUONG, INTIMATE WITH PROVINCE CHIEF HO DUC TRUNG, IS PROVINCE RD COUNCIL CHAIRMAN AND FORMER MAJOR IN TRINH MINH THE'S "THIRD FORCE" ARMY. ALTHOUGH BORN IN NORTH VIETNAM,

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PHUONG HAS LIVED MOST OF LIFE IN TAY NINH. HE WAS A PRE-ELECTION FAVORITE. PROVINCIAL INTELLECTUALS SUGGEST THAT PHUONG HAS ONLY AVERAGE INTELLIGENCE AND LIMITED EDUCATION.
B. LE NGOC KHAI, 44, 21,232 VOTES. AN OFFICIAL OF TAY NINH'S MOST POPULOUS DISTRICT, KHAI IS SAID TO BE WELL KNOWN AND ENORMOUSLY POPULAR. FORMER CANTON CHIEF. PROVINCIAL SOPHISTICATES ALSO BELITTLED KHAI'S EDUCATION, BUT CONCEDED THAT HE WAS A CERTAIN WINNER.
C. DINH VAN DAM, 42, 18,351 VOTES. DAM, A PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVANT, IS SURPRISE WINNER. PRIOR TO ELECTION, OBSERVERS GAVE HIM ONLY AN OUTSIDE CHANCE.
2. TAY NINH VOTER TURNOUT WAS 103,965 OR 79.7 PERCENT, OFF 6.6 PERCENT FROM 3 SEPTEMBER. NO SIGNIFICANT VIET CONG ANTI-ELECTION INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED. BUNKER

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